

April 26, 2011

A called meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., April 26, 2011.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood (arrived at 6:55 p.m.); Councilman Guy E. Murray, Jr.; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman James A. Vest; and Vice Mayor Robert T. Wandrei

Members absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV (arrived at 5:40 p.m.); and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Tharp opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Mayor stated the purpose of the meeting was for a work session on the budget for FY 2011-12.

The Notice of Called Meeting follows:

You are hereby notified that there will be a Called Meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, on April 26, 2011, 5:30 p.m., in the Council Hall of the City Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, VA 24523, for the following purposes:

- Budget Work Session

The City Manager said the preparation of the budget has been a work in progress almost continuously since last year. Mr. Kolakowski said the staff is confident that this is a budget which will enable the City to continue to operate and provide a level of service which has been fairly stable for the past year. Mr. Kolakowski said that the staff has seen some signs of stabilization in some of the expenses and also in some of the revenue areas. The City Manager explained the need to do Capital Improvements Projects in order to keep those levels of services. A summary letter will be prepared and presented to Council.

City Manager Kolakowski suggested that this budget work session be continued on May 10, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. The Public Hearing on the budget will be held on May 24.

The City Manager reviewed items in the proposed budget:

- Not proposing a tax increase
- Proposing a \$1.00 additional customer charge to the electric bill, which would be prorated out on commercial accounts
- Not proposing a general rate increase in electric – reviewed cost saving measures

City Attorney Berry arrived at 5:40 p.m.

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The City Manager continued:

- Proposing a 1% increase in water rates and a 2% increase in sewer rates – will enable the City to fund the Water & Sewer Utility properly
- Not proposing any increases in Solid Waste fees
- Proposing a cost of living increase – spoke about significant increases in health care costs combined with no raises resulting in less take home pay for employees

Fire Chief Creasy reviewed the items in the Fire Department's CIP budget and answered questions.

The City Manager explained that the Commonwealth of Virginia did not provide for any increases or adjustments to the salaries of the constitutional officers and their staffs. Mr. Kolakowski stated the increase would amount to approximately \$7,000.

It was the consensus of Council to include salary increases for the constitutional officers and their staffs in the proposed budget.

Corey Crompton, Network & Systems Administrator, explained the need for the items in the CIP budget.

Chief Day reviewed items in the Police Department's budget, which included replacement of police cars, Cop Camp, unfunded mandates, and grants.

Councilman Vest asked the Mayor to write letters regarding unfunded mandates to the Governor, Delegate Putney, and Senator Newman.

Jeff Weddle, Public Services Director, reviewed items in the CIP budget for the Electric Department. Mr. Weddle answered questions about the Snowden Hydroelectric Plant.

Councilwoman Flood arrived at 6:56 p.m.

Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m. until May 10, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. for a budget work session.